



**August 2004**

**CONTACT  
CONGRESSMAN  
GILLMOR**

**In Washington:**

1203 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-6405

**In Ohio:**

96 South Washington Street  
Suite 400  
Tiffin, Ohio 44882  
(419) 448-9016

613 West Third Street  
Defiance, Ohio 43512  
(419) 782-1996

130 Shady Lane Drive  
Norwalk, Ohio 44857  
(419) 558-0206

**Toll Free in Ohio:**

Phone: 1-800-5411-6446  
Fax: 1-800-278-8203

**Online:**

[www.house.gov/gillmor](http://www.house.gov/gillmor)

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## Gillmor Washington Update

As your Representative in Congress, I am proud to represent Ohio's Fifth Congressional District here in Washington, DC.

In order to keep the citizens of the Fifth District better informed and up to date on my activities in Washington, DC and back home in Ohio, I have published this August edition of my monthly newsletter. It is my goal to provide you with the information you need to stay informed on the issues important to Ohio. In this edition of my Monthly Update, I have focused on the important events that have taken place in the month of July and inform you of upcoming August events in the Fifth District. I hope that you will find this information beneficial. Please contact me should you have any questions or comments.

## Marriage Amendment Update

In the past year, I have received literally thousands of letters and phone calls regarding federal legislation to define marriage as between a man and a woman. As a husband and father, I have concerns about the future welfare of the state of marriage and I am determined to protect the sanctity of this trusted institution. I would like to take this opportunity to outline the legislative efforts of the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate to define marriage.



In 1996, I supported the Defense of Marriage Act which allows all states, territories, possessions, and Indian tribes to refuse to recognize an act of any other jurisdiction that designated a relationship between individuals of the same sex as a marriage. This measure passed the House by a margin of 342-67, the Senate by a margin of 85-14, and was signed into law by former President Bill Clinton on September 21, 1996.

This month, the U.S. Senate examined S.J.RES.40, a Constitutional Amendment to declare that marriage in the United States shall consist of only the union of a man and a woman. According to Senate rules, 60 Senators must vote for cloture to place a time limit on consideration of a matter and thereby overcome a filibuster. The Marriage Amendment considered this month in the Senate failed to achieve cloture by a

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vote of 50 to 48.

Recently, I presided over the U.S. House during debate on H.R. 3313, a bill to amend the federal judicial code to deny federal courts jurisdiction to hear or determine any question pertaining to the interpretation of the Defense of Marriage Act or the federal statute defining marriage. I am pleased to announce that this legislation passed the House by a vote of 233 to 194. In addition, it is possible that a Constitutional Amendment to define marriage as a union between a man and a woman will be considered shortly in the U.S. House.

Amending the Constitution is not a task undertaken lightly. The most common method to amend the U.S. Constitution requires passage of the measure by a two-thirds vote in both the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate. The measure then proceeds to the state legislatures and requires the approval of at least thirty-eight states. Of the more than 11,000 amendments to the Constitution offered throughout our nation's history, thirty-three have passed the House and Senate, and only twenty-seven of those have become law.

While the amendment process is purposely rigorous, should the Federal Marriage Amendment come before the full House of Representatives, I intend to support it. I truly appreciate the thoughts and comments of each person who has called or written my office. If you would like more information on this or any other matter of federal interest, please visit my website: <http://gillmor.house.gov>.

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## Protecting Your Environment: Interstate Waste Legislation

As Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials, I introduced legislation last month to permit states to limit the amount of interstate waste shipped into the state.

The vast amount of out of state waste being shipped into Ohio is a major environmental problem. Under current law, states cannot protect themselves or effectively regulate the amount of out of state waste they are forced to receive. Ohio is one of the states most adversely affected. In 2003, the State of Ohio had net imports of more than 1.4 million tons of solid waste, a 13.4 percent increase in net imports since 2002.

Our current system punishes communities which make the investment in landfills, only to find their sites being filled by trash from states which refuse to adequately address their waste issues. While states should



*An example of solid waste imported into states.*

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not be prohibited from either import or exporting waste, the effects on public health can be great. My legislation aims to empower states to establish comprehensive and environmentally responsible solid waste management plans.

My bill places control in the hands of local communities, allowing them to make the decision to import interstate waste. The owner or operator of a landfill or incinerator must receive authorization from the affected local government to receive solid waste. If an agreement is denied or revoked, the landfill or incinerator will be prohibited from further importation of waste.

This legislation establishes limits on the receipt of out-of-state waste, authorizes certain recovery charges on the combustion or disposal of out-of-state waste, and creates programs to explore alternatives to solid waste disposal. Twenty-two members of the Energy and Commerce Committee are original cosponsors of my bill, including the leading Democrat on the Committee, John Dingell (D-MI).

## **Protecting Your Money: SEC Implements Gillmor Rules**

Last month the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) announced their recent decision to improve governance practices with regard to the

mutual funds industry. The SEC decision includes two major provisions from legislation I recently introduced in the Mutual Funds Reform Act of 2004.



*Congressman Gillmor at the Ohio Bankers League Luncheon.*

The provisions implemented by the SEC will require that independent directors constitute at least 75 percent of the fund's board. In addition, the SEC will now require the fund to appoint a chairman who is an independent director. I was pleased to see two important provisions from the Mutual Funds Reform Act of 2004 included in the SEC decision.

This is an excellent example of a government agency acting in the interest of the people without the need of Congressional intervention.

The recent rule changes by the SEC are a strong first step towards protecting the 95 million people invested in the mutual fund industry. I offered my congratulations to the SEC for providing these important reforms which will give American shareholders greater control in the mutual fund industry.

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## Protecting Your Health: Hearing Held to Protect Citizens from Toxic Chemicals

Last month I held a hearing of the Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials regarding persistent organic pollutants (POPs), toxic chemicals which adversely affect human health and the environment. Three treaties have been created and signed since 1998 which concern the control of such chemicals.

In order for the United States to become a binding partner in the three treaties pertaining to the containment of toxic chemicals, the Senate must give their advice and consent on each item. Unfortunately, the Senate has failed to act on any of these treaties. I cannot conceive of a reason why the Senate would fail to act and protect the citizens of the United States from very harmful chemicals.

While the United States has already shown its leadership by restricting and regulating the chemicals listed in these treaties, it must have legislation which fully implements these measures. The legislation I recently drafted will make a positive difference for our global environment, economy, and health.

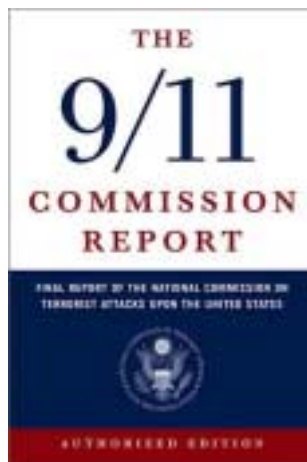
As a result of this inaction by the Senate, I drafted legislation to further each treaty and join nearly 100 other countries in entering into these agreements. The legislation, will implement global initiatives protecting people worldwide from these toxic chemicals.



*Chairman Gillmor presiding over the Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials.*

## The Importance of the 9/11 Report

Last month the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States released the much anticipated 9/11 Report. The value of this report is in looking forward to strengthen our intelligence and homeland security network. The report does not rest on placing blame, instead it demonstrates a need for comprehensive security and intelligence oversight and the need for centralization of leadership.



The 9/11 report contains many recommendations, but not mandates. Throughout the coming months, the Congress will begin examining these findings and work to improve our intelligence community. What we know is that, absent any fault of leadership, our country was vulnerable to missed opportunities and disbelief.

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Since September 11<sup>th</sup>, the United States government has greatly improved intelligence and homeland security measures including the creation of the Department of Homeland Security. Acquiring accurate intelligence will be an ongoing duty of our government into the future. I look forward to the work of the Congress in examining these and other recommendations to protect the American people.

## Protecting the Environment: Taking a Ride in a Hybrid SUV

I recently had the opportunity to drive a 2005 Ford Escape Hybrid SUV. The American-made 2005 Ford Escape is the world's cleanest and most fuel-efficient SUV, able to travel between 35 and 40 miles on a gallon of gas in city driving.



*Congressman Gillmor preparing for a drive in a Hybrid 2005 Ford Escape SUV.*

I was pleased to test drive the 2005 Ford Escape. The production of the hybrid vehicle is an excellent example of the strength of our supply and demand economy. Automakers are responding to consumer demands for clean and fuel-efficient vehicles even while some in America would prefer government mandates.

The Ford Motor Company recently donated 12 hybrid SUVs

to the National Park Foundation for use in National Parks across the country. This donation comes in addition to 600 electric vehicles and 100 K2 bikes for use in parks nationwide.

On a recent test-drive, a Hybrid Escape traveled 576 miles on a single tank of gas for 37 hours non-stop in the hectic downtown traffic of New York City while maintaining 38 miles per gallon fuel efficiency.

## Focus on Service: Recognizing Local Peace Corps Volunteers

During a recent trip of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, I attended a reception in Ukraine with Peace Corps Country Director, Karl Beck, where I was given an update on the efforts of Peace Corps Volunteers worldwide.

The Fifth District should be very proud of our sons and daughters in the Peace Corps. They are fulfilling a challenge made by President Bush in his 2002 State of the Union Address to contribute



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two years of service to the nation and the world.

In September 2003, there were more than 7,500 American volunteers serving in the field worldwide as Peace Corps Volunteers. As of May 19<sup>th</sup>, there were eight Fifth District Volunteers serving in the Peace Corps. The eight Volunteers are:

Jacquelyn R. Adams	Tanzania
Michael L. Chochol	Eastern Caribbean
Andrea E. Koch	Guyana
Matthew J. Lieser	Guatemala
Jenny C. Reamer	Honduras
Julia M. Strange	Uzbekistan
Erin C. Tyler	Armenia
Neil B. Williams	Cameroon

I am proud of the work of our Volunteers across the world to build cross-cultural relationships and promote peace and friendship. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District, I send my best wishes for a safe return and a fulfilling service.

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## Focus on the Fifth District: \$800,000 Grant to the RIDGE Project, Inc. in Holgate, Ohio

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has approved an \$800,000 grant to the RIDGE Project, Inc. in Holgate, Ohio. The Community-Based Abstinence Education grant program awarded 50 grants worth more than \$31 million to assist communities in developing abstinence-only education programs for teenagers.

These funds are important assistance in protecting teens in the Fifth District against pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases as a result of premarital sexual behavior. I am proud that organizations such as the RIDGE Project, Inc. are available to teenagers in Holgate and throughout the state of Ohio to assist them in recognizing the positive aspects of choosing abstinence.



The HRSA grants were awarded to public and private organizations, including faith-based groups, hospitals, health centers, school systems, and other youth service agencies. Programs such as Holgate's RIDGE Project are designed to reduce the number of teens who engage in premarital sexual activity.

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## Appropriations News: \$900,000 included in VA HUD Bill to North Baltimore, Hicksville and Defiance

The House Appropriations Committee voted to include \$300,000 each for the City of Defiance, Village of Hicksville and Village of North Baltimore to update or replace their wastewater systems to meet environmental requirements and further protect human health.

Each entity worked with the Ohio EPA and the U.S. EPA in developing a plan which is environmentally sound and does not place extraordinary burdens upon its citizens. This funding will help Defiance, North Baltimore and Hicksville with the high cost associated with the completion of their projects.

The committee's measure awaits approval from the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate, and the President of the United States. While the funding is not yet assured, this committee action is an important first step. I will continue to support the inclusion of the Defiance, North Baltimore and Hicksville projects as the Fiscal Year 2005 appropriations process proceeds.



## Congressman Gillmor's August Town Meeting Schedule

In an effort to continue hearing your views on the issues pending before Congress, I will be hosting town meetings in your area. If you would like to ask me a question or give me your input, please join me at one of these meetings.

***Tuesday, August 10, 2004***

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Village of Archbold  
Ruihley Park Pavilion  
320 West Holland Street

**ARCHBOLD**

***Tuesday, August 10, 2004***

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

City of Van Wert  
Council Chambers  
515 East Main Street

**VAN WERT**

***Monday, August 9, 2004***

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

City of Clyde  
Council Chambers  
222 North Main Street

**CLYDE**



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## Contact Me

If you have any suggestions on topics you would like to see addressed in my monthly updates, require any additional information, or would like to inform me of your views on matters concerning the federal government, please contact me anytime in Washington, DC or in any of my Ohio offices.

If you wish to forward your questions or concerns via U.S. mail, please address your correspondence to one of my Ohio offices as mail sent to the Longworth House Office Building in Washington is subject to a lengthy screening process and may not reach my office in a timely manner.